

## THE HOLLAND PAPERS IN CANBERRA TURNBULL COPIES OF MANUSCRIPT AND ANNOTATED PAMPHLETS

Few of the major figures in New Zealand political life during the 1920s and 1930s left personal papers behind. Henry Edmund Holland (1868-1933), the leader of the New Zealand Labour Party from 1919 until his death, was one of that small number; but his papers are housed not in New Zealand but in the Australian National University Archives in Canberra.<sup>1</sup> It thus stands to reason that the Holland Papers would be included in the Turnbull Library's programme, begun in 1969, of arranging for the copying of New Zealand source material in Australia.<sup>2</sup>

The Turnbull Library made the initial request in April 1972. It was asked that all the manuscript material be microfilmed together with a selection of Holland's superb pamphlet collection. A few pamphlets were specified, otherwise the criteria for inclusion depended upon whether the pamphlet had been heavily annotated by Holland. Little over six months later the project was completed and nine reels of microfilm sent to Wellington.

Unfortunately, the microfilm frames were not separately numbered but the arrangement of the material follows a logical pattern. Reel 1 begins with two pamphlets by Holland which the Turnbull Library did not already possess.<sup>3</sup> The rest of Reel 1 and part of Reel 2 contains the manuscript material whilst the remaining microfilm is consumed by a selection of pamphlets arranged alphabetically by author or by title where no authorship is given.

The manuscript items require little comment. They are all listed in Patrick O'Farrell's biography of Holland whilst the material relating to the Pacific Islands has been listed in greater detail elsewhere.<sup>4</sup> What does stand out is the amount of material that has been lost: the extant correspondence is particularly meagre by comparison with what there once must have been. Holland, unlike Nash, could not have been a systematic hoarder.

It is necessary, however, to comment at some length upon the manner in which Holland marked his pamphlets. He was an inveterate annotator but one who lacked any sense of discrimination and proportion. Some pamphlets are only lightly or moderately marked, some are disfigured by block underlinings whilst others are heavily annotated in some places but left quite untouched elsewhere. So much so that it is often difficult to escape the conclusion that Holland's erratic and seemingly arbitrary annotating merely reflected his mood of the moment.

Yet if Holland's annotating is wanting in system and judgment it is not without some degree of rhyme and reason. A pattern of sorts can be discerned for he seizes upon statements which strike a responsive chord